The first production at the Theatre was in 1951 and apart from the following year one of Shakespeare's plays has been produced each July since. In 1971, a second production was staged and a second play has been produced each year since.

In 1976 the Theatre celebrates its twenty-fifth year of productions. Details will be announced as soon as possible.

The garden is open daily throughout the year from 11.30 am until dusk. The house is open until the end of November as follows:
March-end November: 2.30 pm or sunset if earlier (last admission half hour before closing); March-October: Tuesday (not following Bank Holiday), Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday; November: Saturday and Sunday only.

Admission: House and garden 50p, Children 25p. Garden only 20p, children 10p. Discounts no Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only for parties of 15 or more 35p, by previous arrangement with the Custodian.

Patrons are advised that the National Trust cannot accept responsibility for personal property left unattended. Articles found should be taken to the Officials Tent. Enquiries regarding lost property should be made to the National Trust Office (Tel Bookham 53401).

AUDITIONS
Open auditions are held each year, normally in January, for the selection of the cast. Whilst these are advertised as widely as possible there are always some who do not hear about them in time.

If you would like to be notified of the next auditions will you please inform Reg L Snow, 48 The Park, Great Bookham (Tel Bookham 52863).
KING LEAR
by William Shakespeare

CAST

Lear, King of Britain
King of France
Duke of Burgundy
Duke of Albany, Husband to Goneril
Earl of Kent
Earl of Gloucester
Edgar, Son to Gloucester
Edmund, Bastard Son to Gloucester
Curan, a Courtier
Osvald, Steward to Goneril
Old Man, Tenant to Gloucester
Doctor
Fool
Captain, employed by Edmund
A Herald
Servant to Cornwall
Goneril
Regan, Daughters to Lear
Cordelia
Lady in Waiting
Attendants

Geoffrey Cheshire
Chris Elias
Robert Coward
Peter Morris
David Page
David Evans
John Ridley
Gerald Bishop
Stephen Oliver
Dennis Reed
Robert Coward
Dennis Reed
Rom Poole
Peter Hahlo
Dennis Reed
Chris Elias
Christopher Ryan
Margaret Birch
Marion Spio
Wendy Tamey
Betty Ridley
Rom Poole
Dennis Reed
Richard Hahlo
Graeme Miller
Andrew Copey
Rolf Cunnah
Christopher Ryan

King Lear, in his old age, decides to divide up his kingdom between his daughters. He determines to test their love for him. Goneril and Regan declare intense love, but his youngest daughter, Cordelia, will only admit her love for him as a daughter. He curses her and she marries the King of France.

Gloucester, deceived by his bastard son, Edmund, cuts off his legitimate son, Edgar.

King Lear, buffeted by Goneril and Regan goes mad and wanders off with his Fool. Gloucester, attempting to comfort him despite the wishes of Goneril and Regan, is betrayed by Edmund and blinded. He wanders away with Edgar who has assumed madness.

Regan's husband, the Duke of Cornwall, is killed, and she, attracted to Edmund, arouses jealousy in Goneril.

Cordelia lands with troops from France to recover Lear's kingdom for him. She finds Lear and comforts him only to be captured by her sisters' armies.

Edmund's plots are discovered. Goneril poisons Regan and kills herself. Before dying, Edmund admits that he has given orders for Lear and Cordelia to be killed. However, this confession comes too late to save Cordelia. Lear carries in her dead body and dies.

Stage Manager - Roy Jones
Assistant Stage Managers - Trevor Osborne, Kate Keneve, Valerie Phillips
Wardrobe Mistress - Mariel Reed, Diana Bowden, Jill Wynn
Set devised and built by Blackfriars Studio, London
Lighting by Blackfriars Studio, London
Lighting Assistant - Lydia Thomas
Amplification by R G Jones of Morden
Sound Assistant - Glen Ball
Fight arranged by David Evans
Wigs by Wig Studio Ltd
Costumes by Chas Fox
Other costumes by John Furniss
Armour by John Eagle

The Licensed Bar and Cafeteria are provided by Bookham Grange Hotel, Little Bookham (Tel Bookham 52742) and are open before and after each performance as well as during the intervals.

The action takes place in Britain
The play is directed by Elsie Green
Presented by the National Trust
There will be two intervals of 15 minutes each

The National Trust thanks the Bookham Community Association and the people of Bookham for their help in the organisation of the Theatre.